

1 IN THE SPECIFICATION

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3 1. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10 with the following paragraph:

4 Because each matched card set will have only a single [[a]] game play result

5 corresponding to each respective card representation, once a player that is associated with a given

6 card representation has been assigned a game play result from a given matched card set, that

7 matched card set is exhausted with respect to that card representation. That is, there will then be

8 no further game play records remaining in that matched card set to assign for a game play request

9 associated with that particular card representation. Thus, in order to allow a player to continue to

10 play with their associated card representation, the present invention supplies additional matched

11 card sets, preferably in one of two ways. The first preferred manner in which the system may

12 make additional matched card sets available to the players is by maintaining a number of active

13 matched card sets from which game play records may be assigned in response to game play

14 requests. Once a game play record for a given card representation has been assigned from a first

15 matched card set, the next game play request associated with that card representation is assigned

16 from an additional matched card set. The first matched card set remains active for assigning

17 game play records corresponding to other card representations that have not thus far been

18 associated with a game play request.

19

20 2. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 1 with the following paragraph:

21 Referring to Figure 1, a gaming system 10 embodying the principles of the invention

22 includes at least one and preferably many gaming establishment components 11 each having a

23 back office system 12 and a gaming floor or casino floor system 14. Gaming system 10 also

1 includes a designation generating component 16 in communication with each gaming
2 establishment component 11. Gaming floor system 14 is accessible to the public and allows
3 players to establish and modify accounts in gaming system 10. Players also use gaming floor
4 system 14 to participate in various games available through gaming system 10. Back office
5 system 12 preferably [[12]] maintains accounts and account balances for players, maintains
6 account information, and provides system usage reports and other reports useful in managing
7 gaming activities at the particular gaming establishment component 11. Each back office system
8 12 also matches electronic bingo cards (card representations) to sets of game designations, stores
9 the matched card sets, and assigns the game play records from the matched card sets in response
10 to player requests made through the respective gaming floor system 14.

11

12 3. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 14 with the following paragraph:
13 As shown in Figure 4, each player station 40 may include a processor 44, a touch screen
14 display 45, a control panel 46, and a player card reader/data entry device 47. Player station
15 software executed by processor 44 receives information from player card reader/data entry device
16 47 to allow the player to participate in the games available through the player station by placing
17 their respective bingo card or cards from the card representation set or sets in play and obtaining
18 the corresponding game play records from one or more matched card sets. The player station
19 software also causes display [[35]] 45 to show a player the results of play as dictated by the result
20 associated with the game play record corresponding to the card representation which the player
21 has placed in play for a given matched card set. Further information on the operation of the
22 player stations will be described below with reference to Figure 8. Further information on the

1 assignment of game play records from a matched card set will be described below with reference
2 to Figures 6 and [[11]] 10.

3

4 4. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 9 with the following paragraph:

5 The form of the invention illustrated in Figure [[7]] 6 includes monitoring for a game
6 play request associated with a card representation that achieves a game ending winning pattern in
7 the respective matched card set. This monitoring may be performed under the control of game
8 ending play monitoring program code which preferably detects an indicator in the assigned game
9 play record to identify whether the result is for a game ending pattern or otherwise. If the
10 assigned game play record corresponds to a bingo card representation that is not matched in a
11 predetermined game ending pattern, as indicated by the inquiry at decision block 69a in Figure
12 [[7]] 6, the process loops back to the point above the game play record assignment step (67) and
13 the system waits for the next game play request. However, if the assigned game play record
14 corresponds to a bingo card representation matched in the game ending pattern, the process
15 preferably, but not necessarily, includes switching to a new bingo-type game represented by a
16 new matched card set as indicated at process block 69 to effectively withdraw that matched card
17 set from further play. This switching is preferably performed under the control switching
18 program code executed by a suitable processing device in the system. After switching to the new
19 matched card set, the method includes simply waiting for the next game play request. It will be
20 noted that there may be unassigned matched card representations remaining in the matched card
21 set after the game play record corresponding to the card representation having the game ending
22 pattern has been assigned and is held by a player. Any of these unassigned matched card

1 representations and corresponding game play records are preferably disregarded by the system
2 and are not used.

3

4 5. Replace the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 10 with the following paragraph:

5 The central computer steps associated with servicing a request for a bingo card
6 representation are shown at dashed box 90 in Figure 9, while the steps associated with servicing a
7 game play request are shown at dashed box 91. Referring first to dashed box 90 if an input
8 received from a floor device is a request for one or more card representations, the process
9 branches from decision block 92 to process block 93. As indicated at process block [[92]] 93 the
10 central computer system first assigns the number of card representations indicated by the request.
11 The assigned card representation or representations are selected from a card perm which will be
12 used to create matched card sets used in the system. The assignment step may be performed at
13 random from the card perm, or card representations may be taken sequentially from the perm.
14 The manner in which card representations are assigned to players according to the invention may
15 vary widely because the system does not rely on the card assignment procedure for ensuring
16 randomness in the assignment of results. Rather, as in any bingo game, the randomness of game
17 results is produced by matching the randomly distributed card designations on the card
18 representations and the randomly or pseudo-randomly generated designation set. In any event, it
19 may be helpful in certain implementations of the invention to be able to track which players own
20 which card representations. Thus, the bingo card assignment process may include creating a
21 database entry for each assignment correlating card or cards from the perm with the player to
22 whom they are assigned. The database in which this entry is made is preferably maintained at the
23 separate database computer 28 shown in Figure 3. After the assignment of the card

1 representation or representations, and creation of any database entries at process block 93, central
2 computer 34 communicates the assigned card representation information back to the floor device
3 through with which the card representation request was entered. This communication step is
4 shown at process block 94 in Figure 9. As discussed above with reference to Figure 8, the
5 information communicated to the requesting floor device in response to a card representation
6 request may vary greatly between implementations of the invention, from information necessary
7 to actually define a card representation to an identification number, serial number, or sequence
8 number. After the assigned bingo card representation is communicated to the requesting floor
9 device, the process at the central computer returns to await another communication from a floor
10 device.